

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 5

Notice of Request for Proposals for Projects to be Funded Through the Fiscal Year 2003 Community Assessment and Risk Reduction Initiative (CFDA 66.034), Surveys, Studies, Investigations, Demonstrations, and Special Purpose Projects within the Office of Air and Radiation.

SUMMARY

Region 5 is soliciting proposals for projects which support the Air Toxics Strategy by funding local community air toxics assessments and/or reduction projects. These projects would provide a better understanding of a community's air toxics issues or concerns resulting from stationary, mobile or indoor air sources.

1. Amount of Funding Available

Approximately \$110,000 in Federal funds is available for award for projects.;

The number of awards will depend on individual proposal cost; the final aggregate amount of federal funding for all proposals; and the total amount of federal funding available.

Should additional funding become available for award the Agency may award additional grants based on this solicitation and in accordance with the final selection process, without further notice or competition.

2. Right to Reject all Proposals

The Agency reserves the right to reject all proposals and make no awards.

3. Matching/Cost Share Requirements:

There are no cost share requirements for these projects. However, matching funds are encouraged.

4. Project Period Time frame

Project duration should not go beyond Sept. 30, 2005.

5. Eligible Applicants:

Eligible applicants include any State, Tribe or local air pollution control agencies within the jurisdiction of Region 5. An organization may submit more than one proposal only if the proposals are for different projects.

6. Proposal Submittal - Due Dates

All proposals should be mailed or delivered to: Carlton Nash, Chief, Regulation Development Section, Air Programs Branch, Air and Radiation Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 886-6030, nash.carlton@epa.gov.

EPA will consider all proposals which are post-marked by the U.S. Postal Service, hand-delivered, or electronically delivered to the Agency, or include official delivery service documentation indicating EPA acceptance from a delivery service, on or before the deadline published in the request for proposals. This

due date is on or before 5 p.m. Central Time, June 2, 2003. Proposals received after the due date will not be considered for funding.

7. Statutory Authority and Applicable Regulations

Clean Air Act, 42 USC 7401, Section 103, as amended, Public Law 101-549, Air Pollution Control Project Grants; EPA, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, 40 CFR Part 31.

8. Allowable Costs

EPA grant funds may only be used for the purposes set forth in the grant agreement, and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Grant funds may not be used for matching funds for other Federal grants, lobbying, or intervention in Federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, Federal funds may not be used to sue the Federal government or any other government entity. All costs identified in the budget must conform to applicable Federal Cost Principles contained in OMB Circular A-87; A-122; and A-21, as appropriate. Ineligible costs will be reduced from final grant award.

9. Federal Requirements

An applicant whose proposal is selected for federal funding must complete additional forms prior to award (see 40 CFR 30.12 and 31.10). In addition, successful applicants will be required to certify that they have not been Debarred or Suspended from participation in Federal assistance awards in accordance with 40 CFR Part 32.

10. Intergovernmental Review

Applicants must comply with the Intergovernmental Review Process if your State participates. Further information regarding this requirement will be provided if your proposal is selected for funding.

11. Pre application Assistance

Contact Jacqueline Nwia, Regulation Development Section, Air Programs Branch, Air and Radiation Division, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 886-6081, nwia.jacqueline@epa.gov for additional information.

12. Purpose of This Request Is for Proposals

This is a request for proposals for projects that support the Air Toxics Strategy through community assessment and risk reduction projects that further the understanding of air toxics problems attributable to stationary, mobile and indoor air sources in local communities and assist multi-stakeholder community groups in making decisions that result in meaningful risk reductions at the local level beyond those required by Federal rules. The funding may be used to support additional activities for ongoing projects or to initiate new projects. The funding can be used for local air toxics assessments, local air toxics reduction projects, or for some combination.

It should be noted that air monitoring projects will not be funded.

13. High Priority Areas for Consideration

Areas of consideration include any local area or community within the jurisdiction of Region 5 State, Tribe and local air pollution control agencies.

14. Request for Proposal Format and Contents

Proposals must be typewritten and follow the format below:

1. Title
2. Regional office and contact person (address, email and phone)

3. Dollars requested
4. Funding mechanism(s) to be used (state grant, regional contract or other)
5. Other resources to be applied to project (FTE, other funding)
6. Description of the project
7. Relevance to the Air Toxics Strategy
8. Connection to other program priorities
9. Estimated duration of the project
10. Expected results of project

Succinct proposals are encouraged.

15. Preliminary Eligibility Screening Requirements

To be eligible for consideration, applicants **must meet** all of the following criteria. Failure to meet the following criteria will result in the automatic disqualification of the proposal for funding consideration:

1. Be an applicant who is eligible to receive funding under this announcement;
2. The proposal must address one or more of the High Priority Areas for Consideration;
3. The proposal must meet all format and content requirements contained in this notice; and
4. The proposal must comply with the directions for submittal contained in this notice.

16. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria (based on the February 7th memorandum from Sally Shaver):

1. Clear statement of purpose, what the project is intended to achieve, and how the project helps to meet the goals of the Air Toxics Strategy.
2. Integration across stationary, mobile, and indoor air, in terms of both increasing understanding and reducing risk. Activities that integrate indoor/outdoor air, water or food chain.
3. Obtaining local air toxics reductions at the local level beyond those required by Federal rules, and including innovative approaches.
4. Promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration and local decision-making.
5. Development of State, Tribal and local capacities in air toxic assessment (inventories, modeling, exposure, and risk characterization), facilitation, and public involvement with multi-stakeholder groups.
6. Partnerships with other programs at the State, Tribal and local; including engaging the transportation community to solve mobile source issues.
7. Improving knowledge of refined risk information at the local level (refined inventories, modeling) to supplement the National Air Toxics Assessment; better understanding of hotspots and area source and residual risk contributions at the local level.
8. Activities which facilitate knowledge transfer.
9. Sustainability and emphasis on local commitment to obtain reduction.
10. Ability to obtain other sources of funding; ability to get funding to complete the work.
11. Ability to quickly get the funding applied to the project.

17. Evaluation and Selection Process

Applicants will be screened to ensure that they meet all eligibility criteria and will be disqualified if they do not meet the criteria. All proposals will be reviewed, evaluated and ranked by a selected panel of EPA reviewers based on the above evaluation criteria.

18. Selection Official

Final selection of proposals will be made by Region 5's Acting Air and Radiation Division Director in cooperation with Sally Shaver, Director, Emission Standards Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.

19. Notification

The Region 5 EPA office will mail acknowledgments to applicants upon receipt of the proposal. Once proposals have been reviewed, evaluated and ranked, applicants will be notified regarding the outcome of the competition.

A listing of the successful proposals will be posted on the R5 website address at the conclusion of the competition. This website may also contain additional information about this announcement including information concerning deadline extensions or other modifications.

20. Dispute Resolution Process

Procedures at 40 CFR 30.63 and 40 CFR 31.70 apply.

21. Confidential Business Information

Applicants should clearly mark information contained in their proposal which they consider confidential business information. EPA reserves the right to make final confidentiality decisions in accordance with Agency regulations at 40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B. If no such claim accompanies the proposal when it is received by the EPA, it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the applicant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jacqueline Nwia, Regulation Development Section, Air Programs Branch, Air and Radiation Division, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 886-6081, nwia.jacqueline@epa.gov.